

# *The* **Back Bay Beta**

Beta Upsilon Chapter

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity • Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FEBRUARY 1990

## **Beta Upsilon Brothers Attend 150th Convention**

Beta Upsilon began the fall term this year with great enthusiasm gained from the 150th general convention held in Miami, Ohio. The convention was well attended by our chapter, with the roster including me (Eugene Lou '90) as the delegate, Will Scruggs '92 as sophomore delegate, James Kalamas '91, Cliff Merchant '91, Ken Chay '91, John Springsteen '91, Phil Johnson '91, Alex Medina '92, Mike Duffy '92, Tom Aviv '92, and Alex Virgilio '92.

During the convention, the brothers were able to mingle with Betas from Maryland, Hampden-Sydney, Lehigh, Kentucky, and Johns Hopkins. The brothers also had the  
*(continued on page two)*

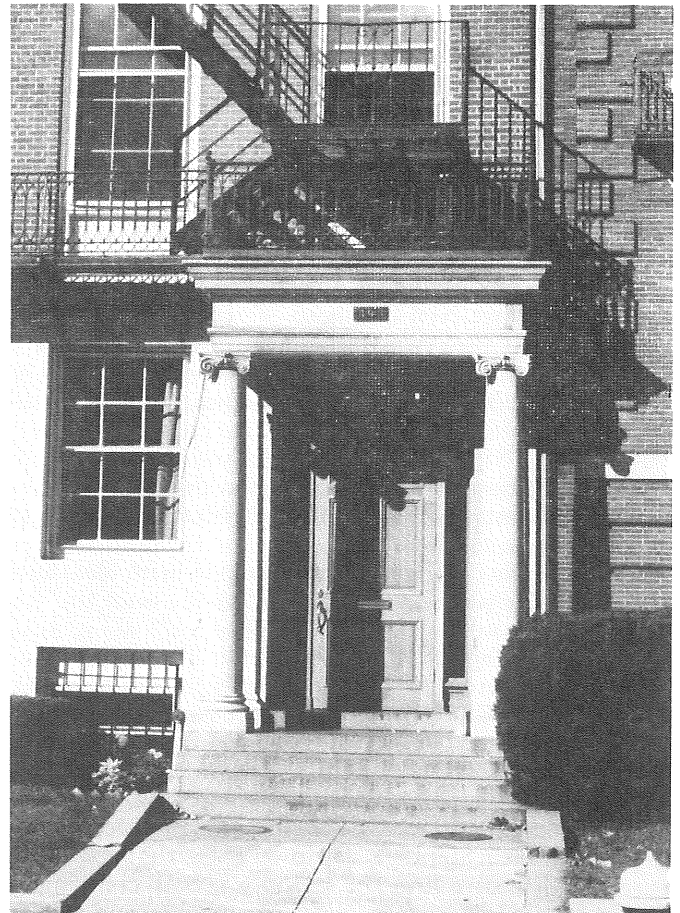
## **Appearance of Beta House Improves Significantly**

In past months the appearance of the Beta house has been improved significantly thanks to the effort and generosity of both actives and alumni. A custom-built white oak front door and frame was installed on the main house just in time for rush week. The annex received a matching front door. Brothers did an excellent job finishing the doors during fall work week. The golden oak doors with brass hardware have received widespread praise.

In addition to finishing the doors and the usual work week painting, brothers redid the wallpaper in the library and the fourth-floor bathroom in the main house. We would like to thank recent graduate Mike McGovern '89 for his help laying the one-piece Solarian floor.

Unfortunately, at the end of October, disaster struck as the annex's hot water heater exploded. After some comparison shopping and after a few showers across the street, the unit was replaced.

If all goes well, the main house will be fully rewired by the spring as was the annex in 1985. We have received an excellent bid for the job and are now finalizing details of the proposal. In addition to providing the convenience of adequate lighting and outlets, the job will increase the safety of the Beta house. The fire detection, alarm, and emergency lighting system will be brought up to building code, and dangerous, dated, and do-it-yourself wiring currently in use will be eliminated.



*Both the Beta house and its annex received matching oak doors to improve their frontal appearance.*

### **Don't Miss The Annual Alumni Party**

to be held at the house  
at 119 Bay State Road  
on May 5, 1990

Contact the house (617/267-6072) for more  
information.

## Athletic Interest And Support At An All-Time High

At Beta this year athletic enthusiasm and participation have increased. Almost half the brothers are active in a sport at MIT. Our intramural teams are improved, as support and interest are at an all-time high. This fall, Will Scruggs '92 started as a sweeper for the varsity soccer team. His solid play along with the leadership of Tuan Elstrom '91, whose season was cut short with a stress fracture, helped the soccer team to a competitive 5-6-3 record.

Nathan Cultice '92 continued playing varsity baseball in the fall season. He is the starting catcher in only his second year at MIT.

Varsity lacrosse held fall workouts, and Kenneth Chay '91, Todd Simson '92, and Steven Hao '92 each participated. Chay is coming off a solid season in which he scored 20 goals and had 10 assists in helping the team to a 7-6 record. This is Simson's second year of play and Hao's first.

Mike Bowers '92 has continued as third skipper for the varsity sailing team. He has become a clutch team member by frequently competing well in major regattas.

Beta participation has increased in MIT crew; four brothers are involved. Erik Mott '90 rowed on the varsity lightweight boat. Neil Harrigan '90 was a member of the first freshman heavyweight boat and now is looking to improve to varsity this spring. Freshmen Godard Abel '93 and Frank Leibley '93 rowed crew for the first time on the freshman boats.

John Sell '91, Cliff Merchant '91, and Randy West '93 are each on the varsity wrestling team this year. Sell and West each wrestle at 190 pounds, and Merchant competes at 167 pounds.

Andrew Obst '90 was active this year with the rugby club team. He played wing-forward as the team finished with a 3-3 record.

Dave DellaGrote '90, Chris Sonne '91, and Michael Duffy '92 return to the varsity basketball team this year. After a successful season last year, each player will start in games, which are often avidly attended by Betas.

Beta participation also increased in fall intramural sports. Beta entered an A-league football team and was extremely competitive. Due to the outstanding play by graduate student Stephen Ponzio '88 at quarterback and an excellent defensive line, the season was both challenging and a lot of fun. One game in particular was decided by a last-second fourth-down pass that broke a scoreless tie and led the Betas to victory.

An octathlon team was entered this fall and fell victim to bad timing. After impressively winning the first six events, the team suffered a shortage of players, some of whom had to meet other obligations. As a result, we dropped in the standings. The octathlon team's experience was very positive, though; playing eight different sporting events in 12 days was extremely challenging.

The B-league soccer team was successful this year, accumulating a 3-1-1 record. Avid participation by the house in this sport was very pleasing.

We are now in the midst of B- and C-league basketball and C- and D-league hockey seasons. The B-league basketball team, in particular, has hopes of winning the B-league trophy. With the leadership of Alex Virgilio '92, Andrew

## Brothers Attend, continued

chance of meeting some of the general officers, including B. Hume Morris, and with some of Beta Upsilon's alumni, including Walter Massey, who is now district chief of the Canadian chapters. Spirits were high, and it was great to see over 1,000 Betas at the convention.

We were impressed by the talent displayed by several of the chapters in the singing and talent contests. During the award ceremonies it was inspiring to listen to some of the great achievements made by other chapters. The high point of the convention, however, was when our chapter was awarded the Sisson Award, which is the highest award a chapter can receive. To our knowledge, this was the first time that Beta Upsilon has received this most prestigious award.

The general now has high expectations from us. It was related to us that the strength of our chapter is one of the footholds that Beta has in the Northeast, since District I was devastated with suspension of chapter charters. The general has asked us to aid in the recolonization of Yale, and we hope to lead the effort. Also, the general has asked us to perform the model initiation during the upcoming spring regional leadership conference. We are honored by having the privilege to do so, and we aspire to live up to the general's expectations.

Beta Upsilon continues to be a leader on its own initiative, as well. We organized a regional symposium with the help of District Chief Robert Clarke. Unfortunately, the responses we received from other chapters were poor, and the symposium was canceled. However, we have hosted parties for several chapters, including McGill, Columbia, and Cornell. Our social reputation is as high as ever, and it is always a pleasure for us to share a Loving Cup or two with other chapters.

Last, we have continued our efforts to provide a role model of behavior for other chapters at MIT. Our neighbor relations have much improved from the past few years, and our alcohol awareness has greatly increased. Our liability risks are diminishing as our sense of responsibility increases. We foresee no problems on our horizon, and we will undoubtedly grow even stronger.

Yours in -kai-,  
Eugene C. Lou  
President

Your news is good news!  
Return the enclosed newsform today!

Heitner '92, James Kalamas '91, and Kee Wee '89, a successful season is very possible.

I have very much enjoyed my experience as athletic chairman. I look forward to continued Beta participation in MIT varsity sports as well as intramurals in the terms to come.

Nathan Cultice '92  
Athletic Chairman

## Pledge Program Emphasizes Song

The pledge class has passed through the first half of the pledge program full of enthusiasm and energy. The class is as follows:

- Erik J. Abernathy ..... Indianapolis, IN
- Godard K. Abel ..... Sewickley, PA
- Frank J. Leibley ..... Olympia, WA
- Michael A. McDermott ..... Babylon, NY
- Kevin E. Reed ..... Memphis, TN
- Christopher J. Shutts ..... Cary, IL
- Randolph E. West ..... Stuart, VA

At the end of October, the pledges went to Dartmouth College for their "pledge sneak." Two pledges, Godard Abel and Frank Leibley, had a crew race at Dartmouth on that Saturday. They performed well, with their pledge class cheering for them.

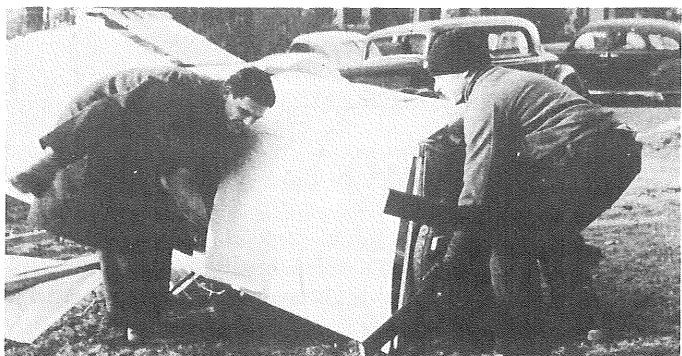
The pledges have finished their pledge community service project. They worked at the Cambridge YWCA, performing all types of services, including landscaping, maintenance, painting, and construction. In addition to the 20 hours for their project, the pledges have contributed time to the house community service project at the Margaret Fuller House.

The Christmas party was once again under the supervision of the pledge class. They planned the finances and arrangements for the party and were anxious to show the chapter their mettle.

In accordance with Beta's reputation as the "singing fraternity," we have renewed the emphasis of singing throughout the pledge program. This also provides the brothers with the opportunity to sing together the many songs of Beta. The pledges have been learning two songs a week since the beginning of the semester, in addition to the chapters of Beta lore contained in the *Son of the Stars*. Pledges sing songs at dinners during the week. Recently, a meeting was held simply to sing the full repertoire of songs the pledges had learned to that date, ensuring knowledge of tune as well as lyric. This pledge class will learn more songs than any recent pledge class. Singing around the piano may soon be a common occurrence once again.

If you have any suggestions for activities or regarding any other aspect of the pledge program, please contact me at the Beta house either by mail or by calling me at 617/247-2011. Your thoughts are deeply appreciated.

Jay Watkins '90  
Pledge Trainer



Pledges attempt to pick the airplane up.

## Brothers Work Toward Second Sisson Award

In our attempt to win Beta's coveted Sisson Award for the second consecutive year as well as to promote the betterment of our community, the brothers of Beta Upsilon have, once again, each pledged 10 hours of their valuable time to a community service project.

As in the past, this term's project will benefit the Margaret Fuller House. Located in Cambridge, this renovated house serves the community in several important capacities. The house is a day-care center for underprivileged children, providing them with a hot lunch and a place for recreation after school. It is also home to the Cambridge United Way and a meeting place for various community groups. As such an important mainstay in the neighborhoods of Cambridge, the Margaret Fuller House is certainly a worthwhile recipient of our aid.

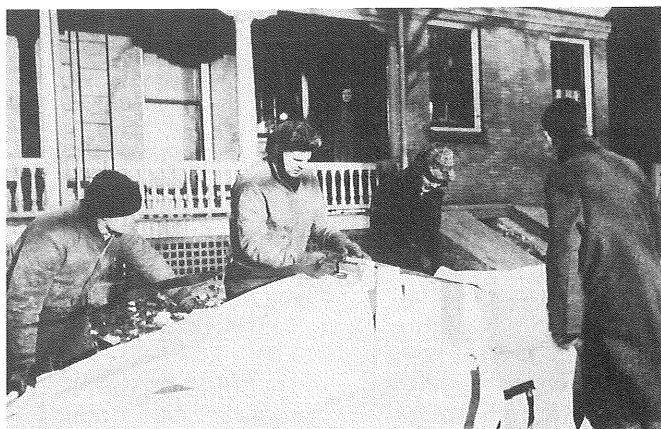
Over the weekend of October 29, several of the brothers, led by junior Alex Chachkes, constructed an ingeniously designed haunted house in the basement of the Margaret Fuller House. On Halloween night, the group donned costumes to frighten and entertain over 200 children and distributed candy at the exit. This year's haunted house was a tremendous success.

Furthermore, we have continued renovating the house as we have done in previous years. Our tasks included refurbishing the decrepit staircase, laying a new linoleum floor, installing carpet, and installing Sheetrock for a new entrance. Our construction has provided improvements necessary for the upkeep of the premises.

Similarly, the seven new pledges, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for initiation, have undertaken their own community service project, to which they will each donate 20 hours of service. Headed by Godard Abel, the pledges have done minor, but necessary, construction work at the Cambridge YWCA.

Through our worthwhile house and pledge community service projects, Beta Theta Pi has successfully maintained its upstanding reputation within the greater Boston community.

Yours in -kai-,  
Andrew Heitner '92  
Community Service



Warren Murdock, Chuck Arnold, Ed Peakes, and John Upton work on the 1942 pledge project, "The Airplane."

# We Hear From Our Alumni

ROBERT COOK '30 has practiced architecture, engineering, and industrial design for 50 years. Much of his career has been in phases of prefabrication, and he has worked on three World's Fairs—Chicago, Dallas, and New York—designing buildings and exhibits. In semi-retirement, Bob spends time building small-size prefab building units that have a wide variety of interlocking modular parts. Bob hopes to display his designs and miniature buildings at the MIT Museum Shop sometime in the near future. Send correspondence to Bob at P.O. Box 854, Orange, VA 22960.

Retiree RICHARD H. SANDERS '34 lives at 110 Cache Cay Dr., Vero Beach, FL 32963.

WALTER HELMREICH '40 writes, "I am pleased to report that Marg and I were able to enjoy the planned mail boat trip up the coast of Norway (Bergen to the end and back to Bergen)." The Helmreichs were accompanied by Louise and IRA LOHMAN '38, Carol and AL WILSON '38, and Louise and DICK MUTHER '33. "We had not seen Dick since 1938." Walter attended his fifth Beta convention in the company of Jackie and AL BOOTH '41. "Al and I had been pledges together, and we have a special bond. It was a great convention, and we hope to see other faces there next time." During the convention, WALT MASSEY '51 was recognized as the outstanding first-year district chief. Beta brothers also visited the Miami Art Museum, designed by brother WALT NETSCH '43. The Helmreichs reside at 4 Fair Oaks, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

En route home from a month on Maui, DONN W. BARBER '42 and his wife, "Sis," spent 10 days in the Northwest. They visited their younger daughter in Eugene, Oregon, did some sightseeing, and enjoyed dinner with EARLE FOOTE '42 and his wife, "Muzz," in Tacoma. Donn writes, "Earle is retired but as busy or busier than most between his own cattle, his son's cattle ranch in Idaho, sailing, etc. It was a great evening of remembrances." Send your regards to the Barbers at 263 McIntosh Rd., West Chester, PA 19382.

SIDNEY A. WINGATE '43 informs us that he lost his first wife in 1984 after 35 years of marriage. He is now remarried and has been retired since June 1988. He makes his home at 26 Revolutionary Rd., Concord, MA 01742.

"Just finished a four-day sailing trip on the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay with SAMUEL R. McLAUGHLIN '58 and his wife, Ann," wrote KARL M. DUFF '57 in June. "We had lots of wind—mostly in our faces! We'll see them again in August as we roll west to Seattle. I'm still writing and searching for exactly what I'll do now that I'm retired from the navy." He provides us with a new address of 6112 Wynn Jones Rd. E., Port Orchard, WA 98366.

ED BELL '58 enjoyed a visit from STEVE YERETSKY '59 last fall. Steve was in Los Angeles for an engineering management program at UCLA. "If anyone else travels to the Los Angeles area, I would enjoy hearing from you." Visit Ed at 507 California Ave., #210, Santa Monica, CA 90403.

"Greetings to MIT Betas, far and wide!" pens LESLIE M. BORING '64 from his home at 4 Chemin des Boulines, 78750 Mareil-Marly, FRANCE. Leslie, wife Annie, and children Anne (9) and Nicolas (13) have returned to France after 18 months in New York. "Bud" is managing Citibank's real estate finance business in France. He welcomes anyone visiting France to call him at his new home at (1) 3916-6319.

WILLIAM G. ROESELER '65 pens, "I left the security of Boeing after 22 years to follow the sun in southern California. United Technologies Advanced Systems Division moved us down here to manage a small group of very talented structures engineers developing defense systems. We live on our boat in San Diego Bay and fly kites in the warm winds for recreation. Maintaining contact with three surviving parents, 10 children, and two grandchildren keeps us hopping between Santa Barbara and Seattle." Drop a line to Billy at Box 210234, San Diego, CA 92121.

We received a report on MATTHEW DENESUK '87 from Matt's grad school roommate, Gary Smith, and Brother JIM BRENNAN '87. Among other things, they inform us that Matt now owns a mountain bike. "While out on one of his nature trips, Matt lost control of his vicious machine and raced headlong toward a saguaro cactus. Fortunately, he was able to straight-arm that swift-moving cactus; unfortunately, the fishhook-like barbs had to be removed at a local hospital." Our address for Matt is 4353 N. Rio Cancion, #326, Tucson, AZ 85718.

KENDALL R. BRYAN '88 and SCOTT STULL '88 spent five weeks this summer touring the U.S., having adventures, and visiting fellow Betas. Ken is employed by Dow Chemical Company as a manufacturing engineer and lives at 320 The Village, #102, Redondo Beach, CA 90277—"about 100 yards from the beach. All Betas are welcome to come by!"

## DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

CHESTERTON S. KNIGHT '21, May 5, 1989  
HENRY P. PINKHAM '16, November 28, 1988

*Let us know before you move!*

## THE BACK BAY BETA

Published regularly by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT. News contributions, address changes, and photos are always welcome and should be sent to Beta Theta Pi at MIT, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 575, Cambridge "A," MA 02139-0575. Photos will be returned, upon request, after use in the newsletter.